AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 2, 5, 12, 15, 25, 32, 35 and 43-50 without prejudice, and amend the claims as indicated below. A claim listing reflecting the status of the claims follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation ~~and inducing cell death~~ in a population of cancer cells having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising ~~by~~ (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an effective amount of an antisense *ras* molecule ~~within the population~~.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein is comprised in a viral vector.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding ~~an~~ the antisense *ras* molecule.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein ~~*RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an~~ the antisense *ras* molecule ~~which~~ is an oligonucleotide.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 in expressible form.

10. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation in a population of cancer cells having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation associated protein, *MDA*-7, by a method selected from introducing, into at least one cell of the population, an effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and introducing, into the population, an effective amount of *MDA*-7 protein and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into at least one cell of the population, an effective amount of an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, a farnesyl transferase inhibitor, and ~~The method of claim 1 wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering, to the cancer cell population, an effective amount of~~ an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase, and P13 kinase.

11. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation ~~and/or inducing cell death~~ of a cancer cell having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity

comprising ~~by~~ (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor ~~in the cancer cell~~.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein the nucleic acid encoding ~~*mda*~~*MDA*-7 protein is comprised in a viral vector.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.

15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 11, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding an antisense *ras* molecule.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 11, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an antisense *ras* molecule which is an oligonucleotide.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 in expressible form.

20. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a cancer cell having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, ~~The method of claim 11 wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering, to the cancer cell,~~ an effective amount of an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase and P13 kinase.

21. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation ~~and inducing cell death~~ in a population of pancreatic cancer cells having a mutated K-*ras* gene ~~by~~ comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by a method selected from the group consisting of introducing, into one or more cell of the population, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and introducing, into the cell population, *MDA*-7 protein and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor ~~within the population~~.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the amount of *MDA*-7 is increased by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein in expressible form.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein is comprised in a viral vector.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 21, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding an antisense *ras* molecule.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 21, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an antisense *ras* molecule which is an oligonucleotide.

29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 in expressible form.

30. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a cancer cell having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, ~~The method of claim 21 wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering, to the pancreatic cancer cell population,~~ an effective amount of an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase and P13 kinase.

31. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation ~~and/or inducing cell death~~ of a pancreatic cancer cell having a mutated K-*ras* gene ~~by~~ comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor ~~in the pancreatic cancer cell~~.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 31 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *mda*-7 protein is comprised in a viral vector.

34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.

35. (cancelled).

36. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 31, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding an antisense *ras* molecule.

37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 31, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an antisense *ras* molecule which is an oligonucleotide.

39. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 in expressible form.

40. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a cancer cell having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA*-7 by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, ~~The method of claim 31 wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering, to the cancer cell,~~ an effective amount of an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase and P13 kinase.

41. (currently amended) A method for treating a subject having pancreatic cancer, comprising administering, to the subject, an effective amount of a molecule selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA*-7 protein, in expressible form, and *MDA*-7 protein, and an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of ~~amounts of agents which are effective, in combination, in (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation associated protein, *MDA*-7 and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity in cells of the pancreatic cancer~~ an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, a farnesyl transferase inhibitor, and an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase, and P13 kinase.

42. (original) A method of treating a subject having pancreatic cancer, comprising administering, to the subject (a) a viral vector comprising an *mda*-7 gene in expressible form; and (b) an antisense *ras* oligonucleotide, in amounts which are effective, in

combination, in (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation associated protein, *MDA-7* and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity in cells of the pancreatic cancer.

43. (cancelled)

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (cancelled)

49. (cancelled)

50. (cancelled)